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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED:

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Best Available Copy

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _Dec 15, 2000_   .

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire ___*THREE*___ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

     ☒ Claim(s) _1-19_   is/are pending in the application.

        Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

     ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

     ☒ Claim(s) _1-19_ _____ is/are rejected.

     ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

     ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

     ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

     ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

     ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is   ☐approved   ☐disapproved.

     ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

     ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

     ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

        ☐ All   ☐ Some*   ☐ None   of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

           ☐ received.

           ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

           ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

        *Certified copies not received: _____ .

     ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

     ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

     ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). ___*4*___

     ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

     ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

     ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- *SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES* ---

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

Specification

2.   The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 25 lines. Correction is

required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 102(e) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the
> United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application
> by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this
> title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4.   Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by

MacNaughton US pat. No.6,020,884.

As to claim 1, MacNaughton discloses a method for facilitating a chat session between a first

user and a second user, both visiting a first web server (18 fig.1A), the   method comprising:

receiving, from the first user, a first user ID (user preference) corresponding to the first user

and an address of the first web server (see fig.1A, 1B, abstract, col.7 lines 9-56, col.8 lines 26-41

and col.9 lines 6-52);

receiving, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the

address of the first web server providing and providing to the first user, at least an indication of

the second user ID (col.9 lines 6-52);

receiving, from the first user, a request to open one of a public chat session, a semi-public chat

session and a private chat session with the second user and transmitting, to the second user, an

indication that the first user has requested one of the public chat session, the semi-public chat

session and the private chat session (using notifications, see col.9 line 6 to col.10 line 32);

receiving, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the chat session designated by the first

user (see col. 9 line 6 to col.10 line 32).

As to claim 2, MacNaughton discloses the chat session is a public chat session and wherein the

chat session is visible to other users (see col.9 lines 6-52).

As to claim 3, MacNaughton discloses the chat session is a private chat session and wherein he

chat session is not visible to other users (see col.9 line 27 to col.10 line 32).

As to claim 4, MacNaughton discloses the chat session is a semi-public chat session and wherein the chat session is visible only to users having a predetermined user profile (see col.9 line 27 to col.10 line 32 and col.8 lines 10-57).

As to claim 5, MacNaughton discloses receiving, from the first user, a query for information regarding other users visiting the first web site, and searching a user database to determine which users are visiting the first web site (see col.8 line 11 to col.9 line 52).

As to claim 6, MacNaughton discloses the query including a request for other users predetermined personal data (see col.9 lines 6-52).

Claim 7 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

As to claims 8 and 9, MacNaughton discloses displaying to the user the usage information in a graphical format and text format (see col.1 line 42 to col.2 line 46 and col.3 line 42 to col.4 line 42).

As to claims 10 and 11, MacNaughton discloses the usage information is displayed automatically to the user and only upon a command generated by the user (see col.7 line 9 to col.8 line 25).

As to claim 12, MacNaughton discloses:

receiving, from the first user, a first user ID (user preference) corresponding to the first user

and an address of the first web server (see fig.1A, 1B, abstract, col.7 lines 9-56, col.8 lines 26-41

and col.9 lines 6-52);

receiving, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the

address of the first web server providing and providing to the first user, at least an indication of

the second user ID (col.9 lines 6-52);

receiving, from the first user, a request to open one of a public chat session, a semi-public chat

session and a private chat session with the second user and transmitting, to the second user, an

indication that the first user has requested one of the public chat session, the semi-public chat

session and the private chat session (using notifications, see col.9 line 6 to col.10 line 32);

receiving, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the chat session designated by the first

user (see col. 9 line 6 to col.10 line 32).

Claim 13 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 1. As to the added limitation,

MacNaughton discloses a processor (28 fig.1A).

As to claim 14, MacNaughton discloses:

receiving, from the user (user preference) a designation of the first web page as a homepage

and monitoring usage of homepage by a plurality of users (see fig.1A, 1B, abstract, col.5 line 42

to col.6 line 61, col.8 lines 26-41 and col.9 lines 6-52);

transmitting data representative of the usage to the user when the user is visiting a second web

page (see col.6 line 12 to col.7 line 7).

Claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 14. As to the added limitations,

MacNaughton discloses a processor (28 fig.1A) and a memory for storing processing instructions

(Via Community Server, see col.5 line 42 to col.6 line 61).

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 12.

Claim 18 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 12.

Claim 19 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 1. As to the added limitation,

MacNaughton discloses a processor (28 fig.1A).

Other prior art cited

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

a. DuVal, US patent no.5,818,836: Method and apparatus for anonymous voice

communication using an online data service.

b. Farris et al. US patent no.5,881,131: Analysis and validation system for provisioning

network related facilities.

c. Sonnenreich et al. US patent no.5,974,446: Internet based distance learning system

for communicating between server and clients wherein clients communicate with each other or

with teacher using different communication techniques via user interface.

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 308-8528. The examiner

can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m. to 5:00 P.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh, can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for this

group is (703) 305-7201.

A shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire THREE months from the mailing

date of this communication. Failure to response within the period for response will cause the

application to become abandoned (35 U.S.C . Sect.133). Extensions of time may be obtained

under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(A).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 -9600.

AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Khanh Dinh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2155
4/19/2001